

Farewell David, welcome James



AFTER many happy and successful years as manager of the Barfoot & Thompson office in Glen Eden, David Armstrong (right) has moved on to take up a position elsewhere in the company.

He will be missed as much for his contribution to the community as anything else – he was active in the local Business Association and did a stint as its chairman, and the branch under his management was active in fundraising for charity.

Replacing him is James Williams (left), who had been the relieving branch manager for the company.

“I spent some time as relieving manager in Glen Eden,” James says, “and I really enjoyed working with the team. They are a special bunch, very astute and professional but also down to earth and trustworthy. When a job came up there I jumped at the chance. I’m very blessed to be part of such a dynamic team.”

James lived in Glen Eden at one time so he knows the area well. He believes Glen Eden is still a great suburb for first-time buyers to get onto the housing ladder.

“Like every suburb in Auckland, there will be development. As more people move to the City of Sails the need for housing increases. It is common in Glen Eden to own a large

plot of land. Due to the unitary plan, land here’s now much more valuable.

“Glen Eden now has its very own apartment complex and people are currently moving in for Christmas. However, I believe that future development here will consist more of terraced housing up to three levels.”



We would like to wish our thousands of readers across Glen Eden a safe and happy holiday season. The Voice will return in February.

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How to donate:
Donations can be made into the Glen Eden Community House's account: 12-3051-0555069-54 with the reference "GE Pataka Xmas"

Thank you!



Friends of Waikumete invite you to
Carols by Candlelight
At the Chapel of Faith in the Oaks
SUNDAY DEC 13. 7PM-8PM
CHOIR: GLENEDEN METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL
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SINGER: MARINA SCOTT
MC: SIMON GRANT
CONTACT: TREVOR POLLARD 09 817 8822

FREE EVENT

Waikare Ranges Local Board

Improving value before selling



ONE question people have when they ask us to sell their home, write *Robyn Rule and Alan Hyslop from Barfoot & Thompson Glen Eden*, is 'What can I do to improve its value?'

Pre-sale presentation matters but 99% of a house's value lies in things you can't change.

The land is a huge proportion of the value. Likewise, location. The next layer of value lies in the house's 'bones', everything from its size to its structure.

Only the last 1% of value is in cosmetic improvements like the kitchens and bathrooms, or the wallpaper, carpet and paint.

Some improvements at the lower end can increase a property's appeal over and above their cost.

One example is gardening. If you can clear an overgrown backyard for \$1,500 and skip fees to create a bigger lawn and space for a trampoline, the investment is worth it. But don't go overboard. Tidy up, not landscape.

Things like house washing, and even painting or sanding floors and recarpeting, are also worth considering.

One more thing: Staging isn't as common as it should be but it's a simple and cost-effective method of presentation.

Remember that all investment is about getting a return on your capital. Any capital you put in should be measured against its potential.

November Glen Eden statistics
Sales: 21. Average price: \$752,785.
Highest: \$1,155,000. Lowest: \$389,000.
Average days on market: 28.

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Win a \$50 voucher to dine in Little India!

How many times do the words 'Little India' appear in total in this issue of *The Voice*? Email your answer and name and address to villagevoiceeditor@yahoo.com by the 15th. You could win a \$50 voucher to dine in Little India Glen Eden. Congratulations to our November winner, Trish Godfrey from Philip Avenue.

little
India
restaurants

Getting back on track...

It has been a long and trying year for all of us and I am sure we are all looking forward to a much needed break. The holidays will be different this year with overseas trips not an option. Can I invite you to enjoy the beauty of the west instead?

I could be accused of being biased but I think our beaches are the best in the world. I have not seen any beach to better Te Henga, Anawhata, Piha or Karekare. And Whatipu is quite unique and gives you the impression you are at the edge of the world even though you're only an hour from the city.

I know how important access to the Waitākere Ranges tracks is to people. Council's track reopening is proceeding. Eleven tracks have been upgraded in time for summer with boardwalks and other measures to make them safe and reduce the spread of kauri dieback.

It has not been an easy year to complete the reopening. The Covid lockdown stopped a lot of work across the country, so it's good news that these tracks in the Waitākere

Ranges Regional Park have been able to be opened, with more to follow:

- White Track
- Jubilee Walk
- Mt Donald McLean Walk
- Spragg Bush Track
- McElwain Track
- Donald McLean Track
- Karamatura Loop
- Karamatura Track
- Ahu Ahu Track

These two tracks in our local board area have also been upgraded:

- Wood Bay reserve
- Seibel Scenic Reserve

If you are heading out to explore them, please stay on the upgraded open tracks, use the hygiene stations and clean your footwear and equipment before leaving home.



Happy holidays everyone. I trust next year will be better for us all.

Greg Presland
Co-chair

Waitākere Ranges
Local Board
Auckland Council

Glen Eden shops are dressed for Christmas!



Santa Comes to Glen Eden

'Santa Comes to Glen Eden' on the last Saturday of November was a fun-filled day.

There were six dressed Christmas trees in the competition. Glen Eden Garden Club was the overall winner.

The bouncy castles were nonstop and the large Santa Sleigh was well used for photos.

Glen Eden librarians kept busy reading stories and every room of the Glen Eden Community and

Recreation Centre was used.

Stage performances were a delight and MC Johnny Angel (Pacific Elvis) kept everyone entertained.

Santa arrived at 2.30pm to the joy of the children. All the children – 200 or more – got gingerbread men and gummie bears. Most had a personally blown-up balloon and face painted.

"A good day but very busy," concluded organiser Gayle Marshall from Glen Eden Protection Society.

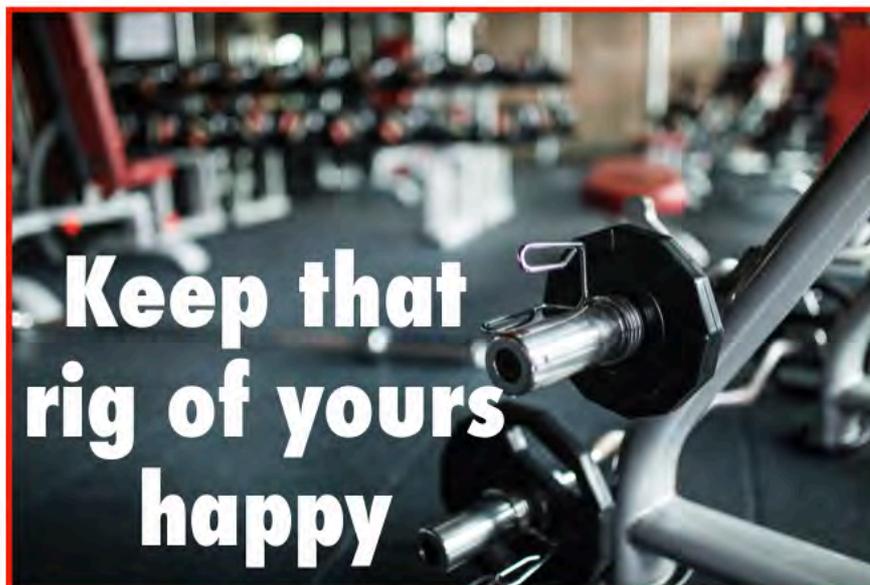
How time flies when you're having coffee!



Columbus Coffee just celebrated nine years in Glen Eden. Congrats to owners Jane and Murray!

CAB hours

Citizens Advice Bureaux Waitākere wishes readers Meri Kirihimete me nga mihi o Tau Hou. All five branches will close on Friday 18 December, Glen Eden at 4.30pm. All Bureaux will reopen on Tuesday 5 January. Some Bureaux will operate reduced hours for a short period into the new year – check with your local one for details.



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VisionWest celebrates 30 years of service



ONE of West Auckland's largest employers recently celebrated 30 years of transforming lives.

VisionWest Community Trust on Glendale Road began life as The Friendship Centre Trust after a group from Glen Eden Baptist Church (GEBC) decided they wanted to do something practical for their wider community.

The Council let them renovate and utilise the disused Glen Eden railway station as a drop-in centre for a rent of one dollar per year. Thousands of lives have since been transformed by their work.

Thirty years on, on 18 November, a celebration VIP Morning Tea was

held in the GEBC café.

The morning tea included the launch of *Building Hope Together*, a picture-rich historical record of the first 30 years of VisionWest. The book launch – postponed twice due to COVID restrictions – was limited to 50 people with a guest list that included local MP Carmel Sepuloni (pictured speaking with Brook Turner, VisionWest Head of Service

Development & Partnerships), former mayors Janet Clews and Bob Harvey, and local Councillor Linda Cooper.

Time was also taken to honour those who had journeyed with the Trust since it began, many

as long-term volunteers there.

Murray Cottle was pastor of GEBC in the early days of the Trust and commented, "It's amazing to see what the Trust has become. It's a testament to what can happen when a small group of people launch into a vision with perseverance and a willingness to take a few risks."

You can buy *Building Hope Together* online at 30years.visionwest.org.nz.



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'Does Santa really wear glasses?'

While we're rockin' around the Christmas tree, we find ourselves pondering that question. Here's what we at Glen Eden Optometrists have spied. The countdown to Christmas is on. Santa's workshop is open 24/7. It's all hands on deck. There are toys to build, a list to check twice – to see who is naughty and who is nice.

The morning of Christmas Eve starts for Santa with a cup of hot chocolate and the latest edition of *Toy World*. Santa, wearing prescription reading glasses, skims over the latest toys. Santa then leaves for the workshop. There are many toys to make and paint, fine details that need special attention and a keen eye. Progressive lenses help Santa oversee the elves in the distance and focus on the fine

craftsmanship without straining his eyes.

As the day goes on, Santa pulls up a chair, iPad in hand as he welcomes in the digital age. Equipped with the latest technology, his blue-light occupational lenses fend off eye fatigue, allowing him to power through hours of checking names as well as enjoy FaceTime with Mrs Claus.

Dashing through the snow, it's almost time to go, packing up the sleigh all day with presents, his polarized prescription sunglasses keep the glare away.

As day turns to night, the stars start to twinkle, Santa has a last check of the sleigh before putting on his multicoated prescription glasses to help with night driving of the sleigh, and off he goes.

I wonder if our staff here at Glen Eden Optometrists have been naughty or nice!



Proud winners of 'Most Satisfied Customers' in Optometry 2018-2020



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Seasonal fun and much more at our local library

Xmas Craft for Kids

Tuesday 15 December
3.30pm–4.30pm

Making Christmas decorations for your tree.

Book Chat

First Wednesday of each month
10.30am–11.30am

Come and share what you've been reading.

Job Cafe

Wednesdays 1pm–3pm
(except school holidays)

Whau Ace Adult and Community Education offer free drop-in sessions helping you to:

- Prepare a CV
- Search for a job
- Apply online for jobs
- Write a cover letter

Seed Bomb Activity

Thursday 17 December
3.30pm–4.30pm

After-school craft session making wildflower seed bombs.

Rhyme Time

Thursdays 10.30am–11am

Lego Club

Thursdays 3.30pm–4.30pm
Saturdays 2.30pm–3.30pm

Wriggle and Rhyme

Fridays 11am–11.30am

Keep an eye out in December for information about Auckland Libraries' Summer Reading Programme, available from Glen Eden Library. This programme is for children and adults, and will run throughout January.



On a Saturday in November, the 'Glen Eden Veggie Seedling Swap' took place outside the library. Kindly organised by EcoMatters and Glen Eden Transition Town. Perfect sunny day to swap vegetable seedlings, hear local music and have some healthy kai.

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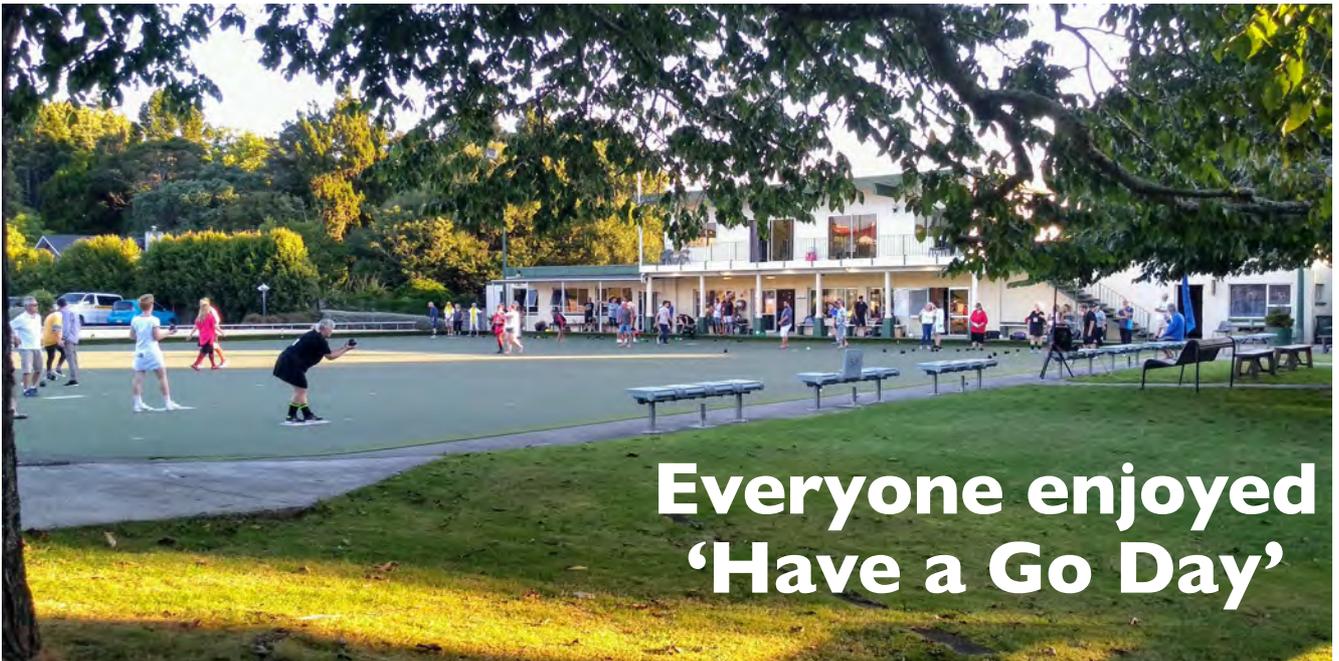
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Everyone enjoyed 'Have a Go Day'

RECENTLY Glen Eden Bowling Club held a 'Have a Go Day', inviting the public in to have a bowl, look round the club, and enjoy a sausage sizzle.

Just five minutes' walk from Glen Eden Village centre at 25a Glendale Road and situated in beautiful serene grounds, the club has two full-size greens – one a top-quality natural surface and the other an excellent

artificial green enabling them to play right through winter.

There is a covered BBQ area, ideal for their social bowls evenings or for when their green and BBQ area are hired out for corporate evenings or birthday parties.

The club does not just offer lawn bowls; their club rooms are well kept and comfortable with air con,

Sky TV on large screens, pool table, darts board, covered outdoor deck, and housie on Tuesday evenings.

They are a mixed club and family groups are welcome. The club is open seven days a week and someone is always there after 2.30pm so feel free to drop in any day for a look round and to have a go.

Trouble with your drains?

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Hon Carmel Sepuloni



MP for Kelston

Kelston electorate office

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Glen Eden, Auckland

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Pre CHRISTMAS
BUFFET DINNER & LUNCH MENU


@ The Glen Eden RSA

Option 1 - Adults \$22, Children 10 yrs & under \$11
Maple & Orange Glazed Champagne Ham with condiments
Rosemary & Garlic Roast Potatoes
Broccoli, Asparagus & Green Beans with toasted Almonds
Herb Coleslaw
Bread Rolls
Fresh Fruit Pavlova & Ice Cream

Option 2 - Adults \$26, Children 10 yrs & under \$13
Maple & Orange Glazed Champagne Ham with condiments
Cranberry & Thyme Chicken Thighs
Rosemary & Garlic Roast Potatoes
Cheesy Broccoli & Cauliflower Bake
Herb Coleslaw, & Garden Salad
Bread Rolls
Fresh Fruit Pavlova & Ice Cream

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Bookings available NOW until 21st December
Wednesday to Saturday
Lunch 12pm - 2pm - Dinner 5pm to 8pm
(Minimum Booking 20)

Glen Eden RSA, 9 Glendale Road, Glen Eden, 09 8184219 Email: nicole@glenedenrsa.co.nz
Caterer/Chef Satya 021 1849688 Email: nectarcatering@hotmail.com

December events at the RSA

GLEN EDEN RSA has plenty of entertainment and events happening throughout December.

The club's Sunday Summer Sessions kicked off very well, with great turnouts for the excellent entertainers and good food from The Foothills restaurant. In addition to the entertainment they have a brand new table tennis set-up, along with an old-school Space Invaders game and a big Connect Four for the kids (and adults!).

Sunday afternoon music will run to 20 December, then restart on 16 January. Along with the Sunday music session, 13 December is the date of the members' and guests' Christmas party.

For groups wanting to get together for a pre-Christmas meal, there's a Christmas Buffet, available to book

until 21 December (details on the left) and this weekend there's the Elvis event – see back page.



The RSA gets into the spirit of things! Here's manager James Patullo with a club guest at Halloween.

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Wishing you a fantastic Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

It's been a strange year for all of us, and a difficult year for many – but however it's been for you, we hope that you'll be relaxing and enjoying this Christmas with friends and family. And if, over the break, you decide it's time to sell, do get in touch. We'd be only too happy to share our advice and experience in the area, and we'll do a free appraisal of your home. Just give us a call – we'd love to hear from you.

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RSA



Glen Eden RSA
9 Glendale Road
Tel: 818 4219

www.glenedenrsa.co.nz
See our Facebook page
for daily updates

A Merry Elvis Christmas starring Johnny Angel. Saturday 12 December, entry \$15 on the door.

Thursday Club Night

Happy Hour 5pm–6pm,
Jokers Wild, Monster Raffles,
members' attendance draw.
Aussie Rules 8-ball
competition. Check-in
7.45pm – all welcome.

Fridays from 5pm

Happy Hour 4pm–6pm,
members' attendance draw,
sport on big-screen TVs,
spot prizes, meat raffles.
Karaoke with Ben & Marie
at 8pm. Free entry.

The Foothills Restaurant

Lunch: Thursday & Friday
12pm–2pm.
Dinner: Thursday, Friday
& Saturday 5pm–9pm.
Open Sundays 1pm–4pm.

See inside *The Voice* for other events at your friendly local RSA

Tickets for events are available at the bar beforehand or at the door on the night.

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